(c) The total quantity of tea exported from India to Iraq during the last five years is given below.

Year (in million kg.)	Quantity
1997	1.30
1998	10.12
1999	7.10
2000	10.87
2001	16.86
2002(Jan.-Oct.)	36.33

ASSOCHAM for removal of tax discrimination

2540. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to give a fillip to project exports, the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has recommended removal of tax discrimination between product and project exporters, increased deduction on income from royalties and patents, rationalization of tax treatment for joint ventures and exemption from Customs duty for used equipment;

(b) if so, whether both the Finance and Commerce Ministry have agreed to the suggestions made; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has submitted suggestions on project export promotion to the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (Foreign Trade & Investment) in the Department of Economic Affairs. The Task Force has to give recommendations on export promotion of project exports. The Task Force consists of representatives from various Government Ministries/ Departments and Trade Bodies. The Task Force has to submit specific

policy, procedure and institution related recommendations aimed at attaining the level of ingenuity, flexibility, procedural simplicity and competitiveness achieved by competitor nations.

The proposals of ASSOCHAM to the above Task Force also include proposals on (i) Removal of tax discrimination between product and project exporters; (ii) Increased deduction on income from royalties and patents; (iii) Rationalisation of tax treatment for joint ventures. These are still under the consideration of the Task Force. As regards the suggestion for exemption from customs duty for used equipments, it is stated that para 2.23 of the Exim Policy (2002-2007) already provides that after completion of the project abroad, project contractors may import, without a licence/ certificate/permission, used goods including capital goods provided they have been used for at least for one year.

Development of Bodoland area of Assam

2541. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA : Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that too much irregularities are being done by the State Governments and other implementing agencies in the implementation of Prime Minister's special financial package for the development of the Bodoland area of Assam;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is delay in the process of releasing money from the Centre to the States or the other implementing agencies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No such complaint of irregularity has been received in the Department of Development of North Eastern Region. However, there have been cases of delay in release of funds. 19 road projects for Bodoland Autonomous Council Area were approved from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources in September 2000 with the stipulation that the projects be executed through Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Government of Assam however agreed to handover these road projects to BRO only by August 2001. Rs. 18 crore was thereafter released in October 2001. The BRO has since reported utilization of Rs. 16.62 crore. Besides, five other projects were also